

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Infantilism

By Walter E. Myer

PSYCHOLOGISTS speak of a state or condition which they call "prolonged infancy." Sometimes they refer to it as "arrested development." They have in mind the person who continues to think and act as an infant or child after he is old enough to have thrown off childish ways.

We are all familiar with these ways or characteristics of early youth. The young child cannot take care of himself, cannot plan, so older people look after him. He assumes no responsibility. He gives no thought to the future. He is concerned only with his immediate wants. He spends much time in play, and is absorbed with his own affairs.

As the child reaches adolescence and approaches adulthood, we expect him to get away, at least partially, from the habits of infancy. He still gives much thought to entertainment. He plays a great deal. This is entirely wholesome—a characteristic of childhood that may be carried even to old age. Happy is the individual who remains playful and fun-loving and enthusiastic and spirited during all his years.

But as one grows up we expect him to begin to plan; to think of the future; to play only part of the time; to engage in useful work; to acquire an interest in it. We expect him to have sober, thoughtful moments, to give consideration to others, to acquire dignity.

In the earlier days of our national history, boys and girls were likely to make this expected break away from infancy and to make it at a fairly early age. Young people had their duties in those days. There was work for them to do about the farm or shop, and they learned to assume responsibilities.

During recent years there has been less for young people to do about the home, and in many cases they have grown up without work experience or responsibility. Many are coddled and cared for after they have reached years which were formerly associated with

work and responsibility. One result is that an increasing number of boys and girls approach adulthood with the habits and mental states of little children.

Everyone has seen the student who gives no thought to the future, who is interested only in the pleasures of the moment, who does no planning for himself, who allows himself to be cared for, who does the work he is required to do and no more, and who spends as much time as possible in idle play.

Many are the young people who think that everything should be done for them and who make no attempt to carry their own weight in the boat. They do little serious reading or thinking. They do not help to solve the problems of the home, school, community, or nation.

Such young people frequently think of themselves as quite grown up and sophisticated. But in fact they are suffering from arrested development. Their characteristics are still those of childhood.



Walter E. Myer



PRESIDENT JUAN PERON of Argentina

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Argentine Grain Role

South American Nation Furnishing Wheat in Great Quantities to Needy Lands, but Is Charging High Prices

IN the minds of Europe's hungry people, Argentina holds a position of prominence. The South American nation, about a third as large as the United States, has long been famous as a producer of meat and grain. These items make up a large part of her heavy sales abroad.

During the past year, Argentina raised nearly four-fifths as much wheat as the United States did, and she produced great quantities of corn and barley. Her vast plains also furnished millions of cattle, sheep, and pigs for other lands. Since the Argentine population is so much smaller than ours, that country is able to sell a great deal larger proportion of its farm products abroad than can the United States.

Many European countries, however, are complaining about the high prices that Argentina charges for her food products. Some governments, for example, have had to pay more than five dollars per bushel for Argentine wheat. It is extremely difficult, and often impossible, for war-torn nations to afford such a price.

Critics of the Argentine government point out that it is charging foreigners much higher prices for wheat than the United States government is

—sometimes double the amount. Moreover, the fact is stressed that our country is giving large quantities of grain to needy lands which cannot afford to buy it.

Argentine officials reply that their nation is charging high prices through necessity. They state that Argentina needs industrial machinery, fuel, and raw materials from abroad, and must pay dearly for these products. In order to get the money for their required exports, it is argued, they must ask high prices for their grain and meat.

So long as the foreign countries desperately need food from Argentina, they will have to pay what she asks. But they will not be happy about it. Nor are the Argentine wheat farmers pleased with their government's grain policy. It forces them to sell their wheat to it for a relatively low price, and then it makes a big profit by reselling to foreigners for a high price.

The farmers have become so dissatisfied that many of them are not working so hard as previously to turn out large crops. Some of the farmers are giving up their land and going to the cities. They believe they can earn more money working in stores and factories. Thus, the agricultural output

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Civil Liberties Dispute Studied

Resentment Over Truman Proposals Threatens to Split the Democratic Party

WILL the southern Democratic leaders carry out their threat to work against Mr. Truman in the coming presidential election? If so, what tactics will they adopt in trying to defeat him without helping the Republicans assume control of the White House?

These questions have been discussed throughout the nation since President Truman, several weeks ago, set off an explosion over the issue of civil rights. He requested Congress to pass certain laws providing greater protection and opportunity for minority groups in this country. He asked that the federal government be empowered to deal with lynchers, and to insure Negroes and other minority groups of employment opportunities equal to those of their fellow Americans.

Governors, Congressmen, and many editors from the southern states have taken up arms against the President's proposals. They argue, as they always do when this issue arises, that racial and minority problems can be handled much more successfully by the individual states than by the federal government (pro and con arguments on this question appear on page 3).

Certain political observers believe that this party quarrel will be patched up before very long, and that the Democrats will present a solid front in the presidential election. Others are not so certain of this. They point out that this is not the first time Mr. Truman has urged federal action to safeguard minorities, and hence the southern leaders may feel it would be dangerous to their cause if he should be re-elected.

If the southerners are determined to defeat him, the simplest way, of course, would be for them to vote for the Republican candidate. The citizens of the southern states would not like (Continued on page 2)



HARRIS B. EWING

MILLARD CALDWELL, Governor of Florida and Chairman of the Southern Governors' Conference.

Electoral System

(Continued from page 1)

to do that, however, since they are strongly attached to the Democratic Party.

But some of the southern leaders believe that they could defeat President Truman without voting the Republican ticket. Their plan would be to see that the President is defeated in the electoral college.

Our Constitution, as students of American history know, provides for an electoral college which shall have the power to elect Presidents. In most elections, so little is heard of this bit of governmental machinery that many voters do not know it exists. To understand what the southern Democrats have in mind, one must review the workings of the electoral college.

The Constitution makers did not intend that the people should directly elect their President. The idea was that they would choose a small body of men, presumably the nation's leaders, and that these prominent citizens would select the President. These men were to be known as electors; as a body, they were called the electoral college.

Each state was given the right to choose as many electors as it had senators and representatives. For example, New York, which has 45 members in the House of Representatives and 2 members in the Senate, has 47 electors. Nevada, which has 1 member in the House of Representatives and 2 senators, has 3 electors. Altogether, there are 531 electors, just as there are 531 members of Congress.

Chosen in November

These electors from each of the states are chosen in the November election. The voters who go to the polls next November will not cast their ballots directly for the Republican or the Democratic presidential nominee. They will vote for electors, as many as their state has the right to choose.

The electors will then meet in their state capitals in December for the purpose of casting their ballots for President. These votes will be sent to the President of the Senate, and on January 6, he will open the mail, count the votes in the presence of the two houses of Congress, and announce the results.

If more than two candidates are involved and none has a majority of all the votes, the election will go to the House of Representatives. In the balloting for President in the House, each state has one vote, making a total of 48 votes. The members of the House from each state must get together and decide for whom the one vote is to be cast. The first candidate that receives 25 votes is elected.

The House has not decided an election, however, for many years. Under ordinary circumstances, therefore, the electors chosen by the different states officially select the President of the United States. In actual fact, of course, the situation is very different. The electors have become mere figureheads. Early in our history the people decided that they would not leave it to a few prominent men to choose the President; that they would determine the election for themselves. They did not do away with the electoral college, but they insisted that each candidate for a position as elector should let it be known in advance whom he would

support for President if he were chosen to the electoral college.

The political parties soon took things in charge. Here is the way the plan has come to operate: Each party nominates men to serve as electors. If a state has 20 electoral votes, the Democratic Party nominates 20 electors, and so do the Republicans. When the voters go to the polls in November, Democrats vote for the list of Democratic electors, and Republicans vote for the list of Republican electors. If a majority of the voters in a state are Democratic, the Democratic electors from that state are chosen. If a majority are Republican, the electors of this party are selected.

Since this plan has been followed, electors in each state have been expected to vote for the candidate their

of 115 electoral votes. This is far from a majority, so the southerners cannot hope to elect their candidate. By withholding their support from President Truman, however, they might prevent him from obtaining a clear majority. If neither he nor the Republican candidate could muster the necessary 266 electoral votes, no one could be elected, and the contest would then go to the House of Representatives.

If the Republicans in the House controlled a majority of states, they would be able to put their man in the Presidency, and the southerners, as well as the Truman Democrats, would be the losers. If, on the other hand, the Democratic members of the House controlled the majority of states, the southerners might then be able to de-

lege has been attracting the attention of the public. The usefulness of the electoral college has become a subject of debate, as it frequently has been before.

There were two main reasons why the framers of the Constitution adopted the electoral college plan. First of all, democracy was a comparatively new and bold experiment, and even its supporters could not be certain of just how it would work out in practice. There was considerable doubt as to whether the people as a whole would be able to use their voting power wisely. Most leaders of the time felt, therefore, that rather than to have the people vote directly for the Chief Executive, it would be safer to have them select prominent citizens from their states who would then gather together and actually choose the President.

The second important reason for the adoption of the electoral system was to give the small states greater presidential voting power than they would have if all the votes of the country were thrown together and counted on a national basis. Since all states, big and small, have two senators, this means at least two electoral votes are given to the small states without any consideration to their population. To see how this system favors the smaller states, let us examine the cases of Nevada and New York.

A Comparison

Nevada now has the smallest population of any state—only 110,247. New York, the largest state, has 13,479,142 people. Since Nevada has 2 senators and a representative in Congress, it has 3 electoral votes. New York, with its 2 senators and 45 representatives, has 47 electoral votes. A little figuring will show that Nevada has one electoral vote for every 36,749 of its inhabitants, whereas New York has only one for every 286,790 persons.

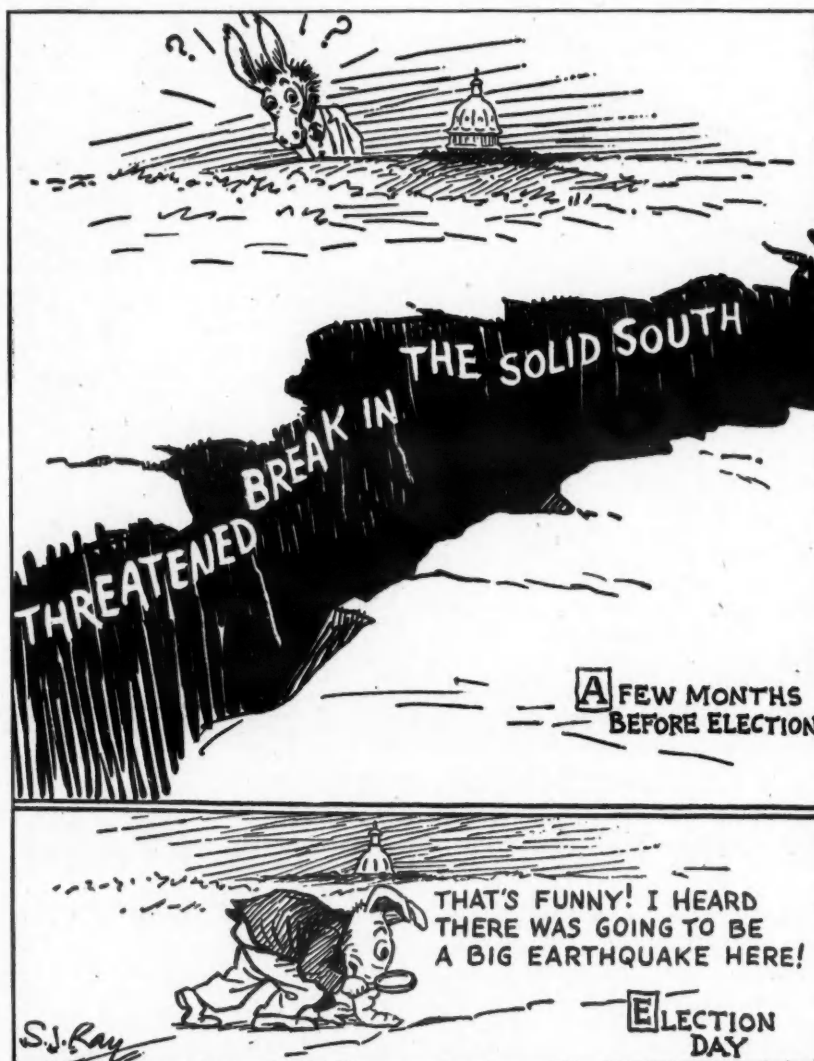
While it may be argued that this is undemocratic, it is widely felt that certain voting concessions must be made to the smaller states in order that they will not be completely overpowered by the larger ones. But there is one defect in the present system which, it is generally agreed, is unfortunate. It is possible, and has actually occurred on three occasions, that a presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes throughout the country does not receive the most electoral votes, and therefore loses the election.

To show how this can happen, let us turn back to the election of 1884. In that election, the Democratic Party in New York had a majority of only about 1,000 in a total vote of more than 1,000,000. But this small majority gave all the state's 36 electoral votes to the Democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland.

In the neighboring state of Pennsylvania, the Republican Party had a majority of 81,000 in a total vote of 866,000, so its candidate, James G. Blaine, received the state's 30 electoral votes.

It is to be seen, therefore, that Blaine received 80,000 more popular votes in these two states than Cleveland did, but Cleveland obtained six more electoral votes than Blaine. If this same sort of thing happens in a number of states, it is possible for a candidate to win the majority of electoral votes in the country and yet have a minority of the popular vote.

(Concluded on page 5, column 4)



A POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE? This cartoonist apparently does not think the present split in the Democratic party will last until election time in November. Some political observers take issue with him.

party has nominated. Legally, however, they may still do as they please.

It is this almost forgotten right of electors that the southern Democrats talk of reviving. Their plan, if carried out, would be to select Democratic electors in November. It would be understood in advance, however, that these electors would not vote for President Truman, even though he receives the Democratic nomination this summer. When the electors, chosen from these southern states, went to their state capitals in December to cast their ballots for President, they would vote for some Democrat other than President Truman.

Such a plan would probably have a decided effect on the election. To be elected, a candidate must have more than half of the electoral votes. Since all the states combined have 531 votes, a candidate must have 266 in order to win the Presidency.

The 10 southern states have a total

feat Truman without helping the Republicans. They might make this threat to the northern Democrats in the House:

"If you do not put up a candidate other than Truman—a leader whom we favor—we shall support the Republican candidate."

In this way, the southern Democrats could probably force the selection of a man who is from their section of the country, or one from the North who has not taken the position on civil rights that President Truman has.

It is quite possible, of course, that the threatened revolt against President Truman in the southern states will die down before election time. There is no evidence yet that a majority of the southern Democrats favor the plan of choosing electors who will vote against President Truman.

Such a development may or may not occur. However that may be, the recent discussion of the electoral col-

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

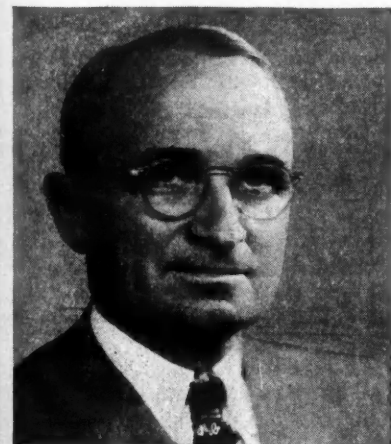
(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

President Truman's request that Congress pass laws to combat racial and religious discrimination has stirred up a great political controversy. Outstanding among the issues involved in this debate is the question of whether civil rights can best be protected by federal legislation, or whether the problem should be left largely to the states. Statements of the opposing viewpoints in this dispute are summarized below.

President Truman, in message to Congress.

The protection of civil rights is the duty of every government which derives its powers from the consent of the people. This is equally true of local, state, and national governments. There is much that the states can and should do at this time to extend their protection of civil rights. Wherever the law enforcement measures of state and local governments are inadequate to discharge this primary function of government, these measures should be strengthened and improved.

The federal government has a clear



HARRIS & EWING
PRESIDENT TRUMAN feels that the federal government should act to safeguard civil rights.

duty to see that the constitutional guarantees of individual liberties and of equal protection under the laws are not denied anywhere in our Union. That duty is shared by all three branches of the government, but it can be fulfilled only if the Congress enacts modern, comprehensive civil rights laws, adequate to the needs of the day, and demonstrating our faith in the free way of life.

Kansas City Star editorial comment.

The President's appeal for equal rights and justice is altogether worthy. It should have the support of all Americans. The methods he advances, though, are another question.

Measures such as a fair employment practices bill, an anti-poll tax law, and an anti-lynching bill would be of doubtful Constitutionality. Furthermore, such measures are not needed for progress toward better employment of civil rights. While anti-lynching bills have been tossed about in Congress for a generation, lynching itself has steadily declined almost to the zero point. The good work has been done through an aroused public sentiment, through education, through improved inter-racial relations, and



HARRIS & EWING
SENATOR EASTLAND of Mississippi argues that federal action in this field is clearly unconstitutional.

through law enforcement in the states.

Other reforms can be made most effectively through state action that has the support of local and community sentiment. To impose federal legislation will retard progress.

The President's Committee on Civil Rights.

The argument is sometimes made that, because prejudice and intolerance cannot be eliminated through legislation and government control, we should abandon that action in favor of the long, slow, evolutionary process of education and voluntary private efforts. We believe that this argument misses the point. Both approaches—legislation and education—are valid. They are, moreover, essential to each other. The achievement of full civil rights in law may do much to end prejudice.

Richmond Times-Dispatch editorial comment.

Many Americans will be interested to know that some of the more drastic proposals offered by the President's Committee on Civil Rights were not unanimous. A minority objected to several recommendations which the Committee made for federal laws on segregation and other matters.

The minority was right, of course. If adopted, some of the Committee's proposals would project the federal government into the affairs of the states on a completely unprecedented scale. They would stir up antagonism among the races. No legislation can be enforced if it runs strongly counter to public sentiment. All sincere Americans are anxious to correct the inequalities that exist. Real progress is being made toward that goal, but the proposed legislation, if adopted, would do more harm than good.

Chicago Daily News editorial comment.

Progress is being made in our fight to improve the status of minority groups in this country and to bring them into genuine equality of opportunity. Times are changing in the South, as elsewhere. There is a growing element of people who are not proud of all the devices by which "white supremacy" is maintained.

Even among this group, however, many will be found who resent the effort to settle all the problems by federal action. They will point to the progress the southern states

have made in tempering former abuses, and particularly to the decline in lynching. They believe the states themselves can make greater progress if left alone.

Robert E. Cushman in the New York Times Magazine.

Now that the war is over, this nation finds itself the most powerful spokesman of the democratic way of life. It is not pleasant, then, to have Russia publicize our continued lynchings, our Jim Crow statutes and customs, our anti-Semitic discriminations. But is this undeserved?

We cannot deny the truth of the charges, and we are becoming aware that we do not practice the civil liberty we preach. This realization led President Truman in December, 1945, to set up a Committee on Civil Rights. The group's job was, in part, to propose laws that would safeguard our liberties.

We cannot, of course, depend entirely on federal action in the field of civil rights, because of Constitutional limitations. The framers of the Constitution intentionally gave the states the power to deal with problems of civil liberties. Nevertheless, the American people are depending more and more on the federal government to take an aggressive role.

Seventy-five years after the adoption of the Constitution, the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments enlarged the power of Congress to protect civil rights. At first the Supreme Court interpreted these amendments narrowly, but since 1925 rulings by the Court have been more liberal. In addition to these amendments, there are numerous other clauses in the Constitution that give Congress power to defend civil liberties.

Congress could, then, do a much more thorough job of protecting various American rights. It could at least forbid the collection of a poll

tax before persons are allowed to vote for federal officials. It could do away with discrimination in the District of Columbia, in the territories, in the armed forces, and in the civilian personnel of the government.

By taking such steps Congress could lead in the task of educating public opinion to a new appreciation of the importance of our civil liberties—and we have a right to expect this leadership from our lawmakers.

Senator James Eastland of Mississippi.

Concerning racial discrimination, the late Senator Borah of Idaho once made the following statement: "Only the patient process of education, the uplifting power of religion, the tolerant, noble-minded men and women who give their thoughts to the cause can remove or mollify such injustices or such harshnesses. And that is being done; it is being done in the South; that result the South is achieving; the record so shows; and the people of the South are entitled to our commendation."

The racial agitation in this country is not over equality of economic opportunity for the Negro. It is not over a program to raise the Negroes' standard of living and better their condition. The issue is the destruction of the sovereignty of the states and the concentration of all power in the federal government.

The minorities in this country who desire such concentration are seeking to create an instrumentality of federal power which could be grasped by any future Hitler, Mussolini, or any other man on horseback, to be used for their destruction. Actually, the greatest protection the American people have, be they members of minority races or otherwise, is the protection afforded by state law and state government, as guaranteed in the Constitution, not only with regard to civil rights but with regard to all other privileges.

SMILES

A writer mentions that he got up at dawn the other morning just to see the sun rise. He could not have chosen a better time.

★ ★ ★

Guest (phoning hostess): "Is this dance formal or may I wear my own clothes?"

★ ★ ★

"Both Jack and Henry proposed to Gertrude. I wonder which was the lucky one?"

"It's too soon to say yet, but she accepted Henry."

★ ★ ★

"I always eat in this restaurant. You know, in lots of restaurants the waiters grab the plates away from you before you have finished."

"And they don't do that here?"

"Oh, yes they do, but here you don't mind it so much."

★ ★ ★

Chef: "Didn't I tell you to notice when the soup boiled over?"

Helper: "I did. It was just half past 10."

★ ★ ★

"Ladies and gentlemen," shouted the street-corner salesman, "I have here a flexible comb that will stand any kind of treatment. You can bend it double, you can hit it with a hammer, you can twist it, you can . . ."

"Can you comb your hair with it?" asked an interested listener.

"Is this a good brand of perfume?"

"That, madam, is one of our best smellers."

★ ★ ★

Barber (whispering to new helper): "Here comes a man for a shave."

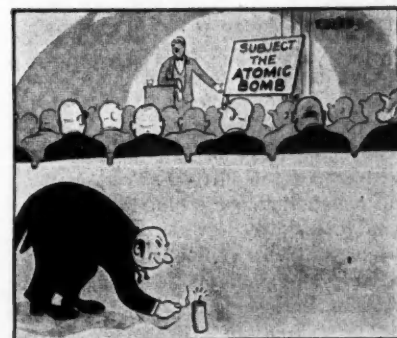
Helper: "Let me practice on him."

Barber: "All right, but be careful and don't cut yourself."

★ ★ ★

A farmer was complaining to his wife that he could find no old clothes to put on the scarecrow. "Well," she said helpfully, "there's that flashy suit Joe wore at college last year."

"Yeah, but I want to scare the crows, not make them laugh."



WOLFE IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

The Story of the Week



WORK ON THE SHELTER-BELT FOREST continues. During the coming months more trees will be planted in the 150-mile-wide belt that stretches from north to south through Midwestern states. Started in 1935, the shelter has proved its worth by making the air more humid and by lessening soil erosion.

Western Windbreaks

The shelter-belt forest plan, which was started 13 years ago on the Great Plains, is now proving its worth to western farmers. A typical shelter-belt consists of about 20 rows of trees and shrubbery, planted at right angles to the winds which almost continuously sweep the plains. Thousands of these windbreaks, each extending up to a mile in length, dot the landscape in the tier of states running from North Dakota to Texas. In some of them the trees are now higher than houses.

The tree-planting program was begun in the dust-bowl days of the thirties when wind and lack of moisture combined to make much land in this area unfit for cultivation. When the U. S. Forest Service planted the first windbreaks, there was considerable doubt as to the value of the project. Today it is generally agreed that the shelter-belts have been well worth the labor and expense. By slowing down the sweep of the wind, they have saved countless tons of soil from being blown away and have also succeeded in keeping more moisture in the earth. Each year farmers are planting more trees.

Consumers, Producers, Prices

The nationwide reaction to recent price drops in grain and livestock again demonstrates the well-known, but sometimes ignored, fact that people are divided into two groups—producers and consumers. When prices of certain farm products dropped some days ago, many of the people who produce grain and livestock complained and asked that something be done to keep prices up. On the other hand, most consumers applauded.

Every single one of us is, of course, a consumer to some degree. However, not all of us are producers. Those who are both producers and consumers

find that their interests are with one group rather than with the other.

For example, a wheat farmer—although a consumer of food and clothing—finds that his welfare is mainly dependent on the production of crops. Producers naturally want to get the highest prices they can for the goods they produce.

Workers and others who draw salaries are regarded mainly as consumers. Instead of producing goods or crops, they sell their services. Their incomes are fairly steady, and are affected greatly by the cost of food and clothing. Consumers naturally want to buy the goods they need at the lowest possible prices.

The ideal situation, of course, is for prices to be at a level where both producers and consumers can live comfortably. When price changes come about abruptly, one group or the other is bound to be hurt. Consumers have suffered since the war, and producers will be seriously affected if prices drop too rapidly now. Consequently, many economists who have been warning against the danger of rising prices

hope now that prices will go down gradually rather than with a "bang." This will give producers time to adjust to the new conditions.

What Americans Read

The average American reader is interested most of all in his personal problems and has little concern with international affairs. That is the report of the American Library Association which has questioned public libraries in all sections of the country on reading trends.

Librarians are concerned about the lack of interest in the big issues of the day. During the past year, there were almost no requests for materials on atomic energy. Except for occasional interest on the part of high school and college students, most Americans were—according to one librarian—"like ostriches, hiding from trouble with their heads in the sand."

There was also little interest by individuals in the European Recovery Program, although club and organization leaders borrowed large quantities of material to acquaint their members with the available facts.

Psychology books were most popular. Librarians think that the great interest in this subject is caused by general world unrest, and also by the more realistic attitude taken by schools, churches, and the public in general toward themselves and their problems.

Historical fiction was widely read, both old and new titles. Movies, as always, brought a flood of requests for the book which had just been filmed. Travel books were also popular, and there was particular interest in South America.

Conditions of Aid

Should we insist that European countries model their economic and political systems on ours before we give them any aid under the European Recovery Plan? This question, frequently heard today both in Congress and among private groups, is discussed by Herbert Feis in an article in the *New York Times Magazine*.

Mr. Feis, who has served as a State Department adviser on international affairs, thinks it would be unwise to impose by law on any country which is already basically democratic, conditions making them change their economic system or form of government in exchange for our aid. Such laws

would make the participating countries resentful and would cause the plan to lose the sense of partnership which is necessary for its success. Furthermore, enforcing such laws might drag us into domestic political quarrels in these countries.

Mr. Feis thinks we might best be governed in what we do by the attitude that countries who receive our help show in their international relations. A country shows plainly what its feeling is toward freedom and independence by its dealings with other nations.

At any rate, concludes Mr. Feis, we should not make our conditions of aid too rigid. What we can do is to keep the right to end immediately our help to any country whose policies are opposed to world peace and order.

Radio Program

On a recent "Meet the Press" radio program Randolph Churchill, English political leader and son of Winston Churchill, was interviewed by a panel of American newspapermen. In response to questions from the panel he expressed the following opinions:

If the Conservative Party returns to power it will probably keep under public ownership a number of industries which the Labor Party has nationalized;

The English will be highly displeased if, under the Marshall Plan, the United States places too many conditions on the grant of aid; particularly if this country decides to refuse assistance to nations which, like England, have socialist governments.

The disputes between Russia and the western powers are serious but war is not inevitable.

When asked whether he expected that his father would become prime minister again he said probably so, that his father was but 73 years of age and healthy and vigorous.

"Meet the Press," sponsored by *The American Mercury*, is a weekly Mutual national program heard at 10 o'clock Eastern time on Friday evenings. Each week about half a dozen well known news writers question some prominent political leader.

Russian Counterattack

Last month the United States published secret agreements made in 1939 between Germany and Russia. After a silence of some weeks, Russia retaliated by charging that the actions

"I AM SO AN AMERICAN!"

YOU BET, Sonny...

No Matter What Your Race or Religion!

FIGHT RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HATE

BROTHERHOOD WEEK, February 22 through 29, is being sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews

INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, INC.



EAMON DE VALERA of Eire, who has been Prime Minister of Eire for 16 years, lost strength in the recent election.

of the United States, France, and Great Britain in regard to Germany in the 1930's brought on the Second World War.

Russia says that the United States helped to finance industry in Germany "with a golden rain of American dollars." As for France and Great Britain, the Soviet Union charges that these countries "appeased" Hitler after he came to power and allowed Germany to grow strong and gobble up much of Central Europe.

The United States denies that the German war machine was built up as a result of American financing. Great Britain and France admit that there was an appeasement policy for a time towards Hitler. They point out, though, that leaders who advocated such a policy were soon removed from office. This contrasts with the fact, they say, that the Russian leaders who dealt with Hitler in the secret agreements of 1939 are still at the head of the Soviet Union.

The Russians say that they are going to publish captured German documents to prove their charges. However, it will probably make little difference whether the documents are printed or not, for the "war of words" seems destined to go on indefinitely—with or without documentary evidence.

Uncle Sam's Couriers

Among the most widely traveled people in the world are the 80 State Department couriers who carry secret dispatches each week to our ambassadors and ministers in every corner of the globe. Traveling on an average, 100 days a year, the messengers must follow a grueling schedule. Although they are all under 30 years of age and are given an annual two months' vacation, the life of a courier is so strenuous that most of them give up the job in less than three years. They travel by plane, ship, and train, usually on commercial lines.

Couriers carry their diplomatic papers in a hand pouch which they must never leave unguarded. During the war pouches were frequently chained to the messengers, but that practice is no longer followed. However, a messenger must stay awake at all times unless his pouch is under lock and key.

Sometimes couriers make an overseas trip and then have to start back within an hour. One messenger route to South and Central America has 28 stops and must be covered in approximately two weeks. When taking the job, a courier is frankly told that

the work is tiring, does not pay high wages, and offers little chance for advancement. Despite these disadvantages, the work appeals to some young men because it gives them a chance to travel and see the world.

Bizonia and Benelux

In reading the newspapers these days, one frequently sees references to Bizonia and Benelux. Both of these terms are nicknames, but they are so convenient and so widely used that they are almost official.

Bizonia, as the name indicates, means "two zones." It refers to the British and American occupation zones of western Germany. They have been joined for purposes of improving trade and living conditions. A law-making body is now being set up under the guidance of the two occupying powers.

Benelux is the customs union recently set up by Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg. The name was formed by combining the first few letters of the names of the three countries. Under the agreement, the three small nations are lowering tariffs and in other ways encouraging the flow of trade among themselves. The pact went into effect on January 1.

Eamon de Valera

As this paper goes to press, the outcome of election in Eire—southern Ireland—is in doubt. It seems probable, but not certain that Eamon de Valera, who has led the nation for 16 years, will continue as Prime Minister. Whatever happens, at this time, however, it is very likely that the man who has served his country so well will continue to be a figure of importance in Irish politics.

De Valera was born 65 years ago



THIS TIRE can "take it." Even when spikes are forced into the new self-sealing tire, produced by the B. F. Goodrich Company, no air leaks out. The tire has no tube. A gummy inner layer surrounds the piercing object, and then closes the hole when the object is withdrawn.

in New York City of a Spanish father and an Irish mother. As a small child he went to Ireland to live with his grandmother in County Limerick. A good scholar, he studied at several colleges. For a time he taught mathematics, a subject at which he excelled.

De Valera was one of the leaders during the Irish rebellion against the British in 1916. When the uprising was crushed, he was sentenced to prison for life. He was pardoned a year later, but was soon back in jail as a political prisoner. This time de Valera escaped, made his way to America in disguise, and on a speaking tour raised a large sum of money for the Irish cause.

Returning to Ireland, he renewed his demands for Irish independence. During the 1920's he was frequently in conflict with other Irish leaders in addition to the British. However,

de Valera's followers were increasing in number, and in 1932 his party came into power. He has been Prime Minister ever since.

Known to his followers as "Dev," the Irish leader has seen Eire gain the independence for which he fought so long. It still is loosely associated with the British Commonwealth, but it is completely independent.

Living conditions are better in Eire than in most European nations, but that country, like most others, has seen the cost of living rise in recent years. The land is small and has a scarcity of certain essential minerals, but the people are intelligent and industrious, so they may be expected to make the best possible use of their resources.

Eire remained neutral during the war because of her bitterness toward the English. Many southern Irishmen, however, volunteered for service in the British armed forces. Eire wants to become a member of the UN, but the Russians have blocked her membership up to this point.

Electoral System

(Concluded from page 2)

For instance, four years after the election to which we have referred, Cleveland lost the presidency in just this way. His opponent, Benjamin Harrison, received 233 electoral votes while Cleveland received only 168, but Cleveland's popular vote was about 95,000 greater than that of Harrison.

As a matter of fact, the electoral votes seldom correspond with the popular votes. In the 1940 election, Wendell Willkie was overwhelmingly defeated by Roosevelt in the electoral vote—449 to 82—and yet he polled 45 per cent of the popular vote.

Although very few people propose that the electoral system be eliminated entirely, many suggestions for reform are made from time to time. One is to do away with the electors but to keep the system. The electoral votes could still be apportioned among the states, as they now are, but all the trouble and expense of nominating and electing electors could be ended. Moreover, this change would enable the people to vote directly for the presidential nominees they favor, rather than making them choose electors to do this task for them and not even being sure that the electors will vote for their party's candidates.

Another possibility is that electors be bound by law to cast their votes for the party candidates whom they represent. One of the most important suggestions, however, is this:

Instead of giving all the electoral votes of each state to the electors of the party which receives a majority, they should be distributed according to the percentages of votes cast for each party. Say that a state has 10 electoral votes. If one party receives 60 per cent of the popular vote, and the other party receives 40 per cent, then the electoral votes should be divided—six for one party, and four for the other.

Such a change would keep the electoral votes more in line with the popular vote, and it would prevent a man from winning the presidency without having a majority of the popular vote. At the same time, small states would still have their present voting strength.

Our Readers Say—

Why not let boys enlist for a year of military training? This would give those who want to go to college a chance to do so, and those who want to enlist could secure the training. I think the upper age limit should be 25 years for such a program. Then boys who want to could enlist for a year after college.

VIOLA TEGHEMEYER,
Arthur, Iowa.

★ ★ ★

My letter refers to one by David Silvernale, in which he stated that our nation was inconsistent in trying to keep Communists out of government jobs while letting them function as a political party. I feel the government has the right to prevent Communists from holding jobs in which they might sabotage the nation. But when these men form their own political party, they are exercising a right that they have under a democratic form of government. The two are not inconsistent to me.

NORMAN BACON,
Essex, Maryland.



In my opinion, it would be a wonderful thing for Congress to pass a bill requiring military training for boys between the ages of 18 and 20 years. Compulsory training is what this nation needs in case of another war. Some boys do not want to go into the service for a year, but I, for one, would be very glad to take one year of training. I feel that it would help me and my country.

JACK OLMSTED,
Lake Charles, Louisiana.

★ ★ ★

I think universal military training is undemocratic. It seems to me that one of the reasons we fought the last war was to retain our democracy and wipe out Nazism, in which all young men are compelled to prepare for war. We would follow that path if we adopted a military conscription plan.

ANN G. MCSORLEY,
Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

★ ★ ★

If people would only remember the lives lost on Bataan, Wake, and many other islands of the Pacific, they would see why it is necessary to have universal military training. We know that when World War II came men had to be rushed through their training. This would not happen again under a system of universal training. With that system, we will always be prepared to defend our beloved country. I suggest if persons between 18 and 20 years of age want to continue their education, that they be allowed to go on before receiving their military training.

PAUL MYERS,
Jeanette, Pennsylvania.

Argentina

(Concluded from page 1)

of Argentina may seriously decline unless the discontent among farmers is wiped out.

In an effort to meet the problem, the government recently announced that farmers would be paid more for their crops. They will receive about half as much money as the Argentine government gets when it sells the grain abroad. It is hoped that this will encourage farmers to work harder, although many of them are reported to feel that this is still not a fair arrangement.

If Argentina's farm output does not remain on a high level, that South American country will not be able to supply as much food to foreigners as she has since the end of the war. Even though they now have to pay her exorbitant prices, they will be worse off if they cannot buy large quantities of grain from her. They will face more severe hunger.

Moreover, the Argentine government itself will be dealt a blow if it does not have as much to sell abroad. It needs all the money it can obtain from foreign sales in order to carry out its five-year plan. This program consists of strengthening the nation's industries, building up its armed forces, and keeping Argentina out in front among her Latin American neighbors.

That is the goal of President Juan Peron and his followers. They are adopting any methods which they consider necessary to push their five-year plan to a successful conclusion. Hence, if the Argentine farmers do not maintain a high rate of production, the government is expected to act forcefully in dealing with the problem.

Military Group

President Peron was one of a group of military men who seized control of the government in 1943. For a long time, he worked behind the scenes, building up his own power. At last he felt strong enough to campaign for the presidency, and he made his bid two years ago.

In the campaign, Peron made extravagant promises to all classes of the people—to farmers, workers, and businessmen. An able speaker, he won enough of them over to be elected President, and his followers won full control of the nation's Congress.

During the months before the voting, officials of the United States openly opposed Peron. They accused him of helping Germany and Japan in the war, and asked the Argentine people not to vote for him. Many Argentines resented our government's taking sides in their election. It is possible that the United States, by trying to keep Peron out of office, actually helped him win the race.

Now that Peron has been President for nearly two years, relations between him and the U. S. government are more friendly. Certain people in our country do not like to see this friendship. They say Peron is a dangerous dictator who is trying to build a powerful military bloc which will work against us. Other Americans claim that it is better for the United States to get along with Argentina than to make an enemy of her, if we can do so without too great a compromise.

Criticism of Peron's methods has come not only from the outside, but also from some of the Argentine peo-



ple. Those who dislike him say that he has no respect for laws or for the rights of the people.

University professors suspected of unfriendliness toward the government have lost their jobs. The government has the power to make the schools and colleges teach what it prescribes.

The government also has taken over a number of Argentine business firms, and closely supervises all the rest. Businesses cannot borrow money from banks without permission of the government. A businessman who does not cooperate with the officials finds that his request for a loan fails to win approval.

Newspapers which print articles unfavorable to Peron are in constant difficulty. Their taxes are sharply increased. They have trouble getting paper. The police arrest their truck drivers.

All this has come about since Peron began to build up the strength of Argentina. He defends his actions by saying that the country cannot become

more prosperous and powerful unless he has full cooperation from the people. Those who stand in the way, he says, must be pushed aside or they will cause the plans to fail.

Despite the strong methods which he has used, Peron's efforts have not brought as rapid results as he and his assistants had expected. Nevertheless, there has been some progress since he took over.

Textile factories have been built, and a big steel mill is being planned. The government is laying out new highways, constructing great dams for irrigation and electric power, and spending large sums on a search for oil and other minerals. It is hoped that the country may produce more of the raw materials and factory goods which it needs, and thus will not have to buy so many industrial products from abroad.

As it is now, there are not many factories. The main industries are those which handle the nation's farm products—grain, cattle, wool, and cot-

ton. Argentina must therefore buy such items as cars, radios, and farm machinery from other countries.

Although she needs more industries, Argentina is already one of the most prosperous and modern of Latin American nations. The large majority of her 14 million people are well-educated. Ninety-eight out of every 100 are descended from European nationalities, including Spanish (the most numerous), Italian, French, and Portuguese. Because Argentina's best natural resources are her farm lands, the majority of the people are dependent on farming for their living.

The country is long and narrow, extending about 2,300 miles from north to south, and, as we have pointed out, is about a third as large in area as the United States. It slopes upward from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the towering Andes Mountains on the west. The northern part of Argentina is hilly and covered with heavy woods. The extreme south, known as Patagonia, is cold and bleak.

The central section, where most of the people live, is quite level—a land of farms and ranches. Grains are grown in the eastern part, and cattle are kept on the grazing land in the west. In the sections which are cultivated, farming is carried on with modern methods.

Large Ranches

There are ranches which are thousands of acres in size, but near the cities the land is divided into smaller farms. The owners of the large estates live in the cities, and the work on their land is done by hired laborers.

Argentina has some oil, and a little coal, gold, lead, tin, and zinc. But she does not have large quantities of these minerals, and thus has to buy considerable raw materials—especially fuel—from foreign countries.

Buenos Aires and other Argentine cities are remarkable for their clean, up-to-date appearance, their great buildings, and their broad avenues. Many of the streets are lined with large stores and fine homes, and there are other signs of prosperity.

Argentina, however, like many other countries, is marred by poverty and slums. Many of the people do not receive high wages and do not profit from the thriving farms. It remains to be seen whether the Peron government is chiefly interested in promoting wider prosperity and better living conditions for all the people, or whether its primary aim is to strengthen its own power and to make Argentina a powerful military nation.

A new "land of cotton" is developing in the United States, hundreds of miles west of Dixie. The principal state in the new belt is California, but Arizona and New Mexico are also raising increasingly larger crops. Irrigation of land which was once considered arid has made it possible to increase western cotton acreage.

This section does not now threaten the South for leadership in cotton raising, but the development has come along with a rush since the war. The productiveness of the western land is shown by the fact that California ranks 5th among the states in production although it is 11th in acreage.

The boll weevil, long the bane of southern cotton raisers, has not yet appeared in California fields. The long, level stretches of the western cotton lands are ideal for mechanical pickers.



ARGENTINE STUDENTS taking part in a political demonstration. People in the South American nation have many of the interests and goals that we in the United States have

Understanding the Argentine People

They Tend to Be Proud, Ambitious, and Nationalistic

OF all our Western Hemisphere "good neighbors," Argentina, over a period of years, has been the least neighborly. The governments of that country and of the United States are getting along better just now than they have for a long time and greater cordiality among the people may result.

It is a fact, however, that we Americans do not understand the Argentines, and it is equally true that they, or most of them, do not understand us. This is not because the two populations differ so greatly. The opposite is true. Americans and Argentines resemble each other in many respects. In appearance, spirit, business practices, standards of living and in other ways, the Argentines approach us more closely than they do their Latin American neighbors.

Yet unfriendliness has marked the relations of the two nations. Suspicion, discord, and jealousy have held them apart. Conflict of economic interests has had much to do with the disharmony but psychology is also a factor. If good feeling is to be restored on a firm basis, the two peoples must understand each other.

What are the Argentines like? That is, of course, an impossible question. They are not all the same, any more than all the people of the United States are. Certain qualities are, nevertheless, very general. Therefore, if we are cautious about it, we may list a few characteristics of the "typical" Argentine. He is, we may say, proud, confident, patriotic.

The Argentine is proud of his race. He is a man of European descent. He looks about at neighboring South American countries, and sees that most of them are populated largely by Negroes and Indians. He, with his white blood, feels superior. His feeling of superiority is contrary to the democratic creed that all men are born equal. Nevertheless, he thinks he is of better stock than his neighbors.

The Argentine is both proud and confident because his country is growing in population, power and prosperity. It is still expanding. The population has almost doubled during the last 35 years. The nation is large enough and has sufficient resources to support an increasing population. The average citizen of Argentina firmly be-

lieves that his country will some day be one of the rich and powerful nations of the earth.

This citizen in his own life reflects the booming growth of his young nation. He is energetic, hopeful, confident. He is also extremely nationalistic and narrowly patriotic. Like most people who live in a young and vigorous nation, he is "chesty" and conceited.

Being intensely patriotic, the Argentine is inclined to feel pride in the efforts of President Peron to build a big military force and increase the prestige of the nation. He is willing to give up some of his liberties if the country is to be strengthened.

The pride and confidence of the Argentines, together with their nationalism make for jealousy of the United States. They feel themselves the equals racially and culturally of any people in the world. They look upon themselves as the natural leaders of South America.

Hence they resent the towering strength of the United States—the "Colossus of the North." They do not like it when they see the great in-

fluence of the United States in Latin America. They look to the day when Argentina will be recognized as a center of power, drawing all neighboring countries within its orbit.

One of the most serious issues ever to disturb Argentine-American relations was the question of meat. The Argentines think they have the finest cattle and the best beef in the world. They are proud of their great packing plants where meat is processed.

The people of Argentina, therefore, were highly indignant when the United States refused to permit beef from their country to be imported on the ground that Argentine cattle had hoof and mouth disease, and that the importation of beef might bring the disease to this country. The Argentines looked upon this action as an insult.

This incident may be used as a lesson by the United States. Our country could have kept Argentine beef out without injuring the feelings of our Southern neighbors. We could have enacted high tariff rates or could even have prohibited imports of Argentine beef on the ground that it competed with the products of American cattle raisers. This could not have injured Argentine feelings.

Americans can be careful to avoid giving offense on matters of this kind.



ON THE PAMPAS. The independence of spirit which prevails in our ranch country of the West is found on the plains of Argentina.

At the same time we have a right to watch carefully to determine whether the growing military power of Argentina is being used to threaten our security, and whether the Peron government is seeking to line up other Latin American nations against us.

American Presidents - - Martin Van Buren

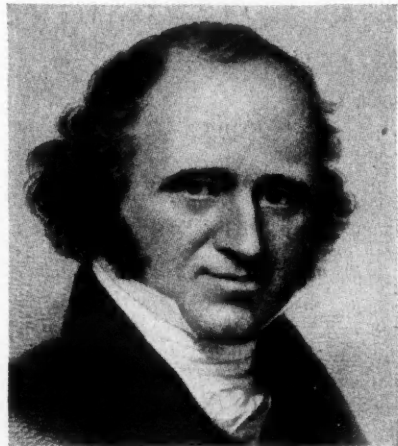
IF ever our country needed a President with vision, force, and sound ideas, it needed him during the late 1830's. The great panic of 1837 swept over the rapidly growing United States like a plague. Factories and business firms in the East closed down by the hundreds. Property values sank to absurdly low levels. Lands, bought on credit, changed hands swiftly. Thousands of workers in the newly forming industrial centers were thrown out of work.

All these things were happening because people had been trying to "get rich quick." They had been borrowing heavily and speculating in land. This had caused the value of land to rise out of all proportion to its worth. Finally, the bubble burst, and the explosion shook the very foundations of the new Republic.

It was at the beginning of this great crash that Martin Van Buren became President of the United States. It is generally agreed that he was unqualified to deal with the crisis at hand. He was a politician, not a

statesman. Practically his whole public life had been spent in playing "politics" rather than studying the larger problems concerning the public welfare.

He was born in the small village of Kinderhook, located between New York City and Albany, in 1782. His



MARTIN VAN BUREN, eighth President

father was a Dutch tavern keeper and farmer. Young Van Buren worked on the farm and served as bar boy in the tavern. He developed an early interest in politics and listened eagerly to the "hot" debates which occurred among the patrons of the tavern. When he had time he attended the village school, where he acquired a rudimentary education.

At the age of 14, he went to New York City to study law. To earn his way, he ran errands, swept the floors, and built fires in a law office. When still very young, he began to practice law, and soon met with considerable financial success.

During this time he took an active interest in city and state politics. Before long, he was elected to local offices, and later became attorney general of New York, state senator, United States senator, and then governor of his state. He headed a political machine that helped elect Andrew Jackson President, thereby assuring himself of a good place in Jackson's cabinet.

As secretary of state, he probably served his country better than in any other capacity. The United States was having trouble with England over trade. Martin Van Buren settled this dispute in such a way as to win favor both in the United States and in England.

In Jackson's second administration, Van Buren was vice-president. Then he moved into the White House as Jackson's successor in 1837. He displayed no qualities of leadership in dealing with the financial and economic crisis which overtook the nation at that time.

He remained in office for only one term, but he continued in politics almost until he died in 1862. He sought the Presidency several times again after leaving the White House. Each time he was defeated, either within his own party or at the polls in the final balloting. It should be said for Van Buren that he never grew sullen over defeat. He was a good sport and accepted graciously the bitter in politics along with the sweet.

Truman Visits Nearby Possessions

Sees Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands During Vacation

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S visit to our nation's Caribbean possessions—the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico—is partly a vacation, but the President is also observing conditions on these islands. While in Puerto Rico, he will see evidences of extreme poverty among the people, and will discuss with local leaders possible methods of improving living standards on that crowded tropical island.

Puerto Rico has an area a little less than half as large as New Jersey. Into this space are packed almost 2 million people, mostly Spanish-speaking. About a third of them are Negroes. Most of the island's inhabitants work on huge sugar plantations, or on farms that raise fruit, coconuts, coffee, or tobacco. Some are employed in the mills and factories that process sugar, molasses, cigars, cigarettes, and coffee.

The plantations and industries of Puerto Rico, however, do not adequately support the swarms of people. The island suffers from unemployment, and the natives who do have jobs receive very low wages. So much of the land is used for sugar cane and other plantation crops that the Puerto Ricans cannot raise much food for themselves.

Although living conditions for many people on the island are still bad, there has been some improvement since Puerto Rico became a U. S. possession in 1898. Sewers have been built in many towns, and other sanitation measures have been taken. Malaria,



PUERTO RICO and the Virgin Islands are two of the Caribbean lands that President Truman is visiting

though, is still a problem in some localities.

About 40 miles east of Puerto Rico lie the mountainous Virgin Islands of the United States—including St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, and approximately 50 small, rocky islets. The combined area of all these pieces of land is about 133 square miles. Some other islands in the same group are owned by Great Britain.

Some 25,000 people, mostly Negroes, live on the U. S. Virgin Islands. They are, in general, fairly well educated.

The main agricultural island in the group is St. Croix. It produces large quantities of sugar cane. On St. Thomas is the city of Charlotte Amalie, a busy port and the capital of the islands. St. John contains

only about 19 square miles. Several hundred people live on it. For a livelihood, they fish and tend small plots of fruit and vegetables.

Our country purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark in 1917. The Islanders have been made United States citizens. As in Puerto Rico, there is a legislature chosen by the local inhabitants, and a Governor appointed by the President of the United States.

Both Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were visited by Columbus. Later these islands, particularly St. Thomas, became stopping-places for West Indies pirates. San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico, is half a century older than St. Augustine, Florida—the first city founded by Europeans in continental United States.

A Career for Tomorrow - - The Farmer

PERHAPS no other career has as clear-cut advantages and disadvantages as does farming. Many farmers would never trade their independence and out-of-door lives for a job in an office or at a machinist's bench. At the same time office workers and factory employees, accustomed to life in a city, think they are far more fortunate than the farmer.

To be contented and successful, the farmer must like the out-of-doors, and he must like to work with plants and animals. He must be willing to put in long hours at hard labor when necessary, and he should have business ability, for each farmer is really an independent businessman. The farmer, in many cases, must also be willing to live some distance from his neighbors, and from schools, theaters, hospitals, and churches.

Fortunately, it is fairly easy for a young man to determine whether he wants to take up farming. If he has grown up in the country, he probably already knows whether or not he wants to continue living there. A person who has lived in the city can spend several summers as a farm laborer to test his aptitude for farming. It will not take each individual long to decide whether in his opinion, the advantages of the country outweigh the disadvantages.

A great deal is said about the difficulty of making a living on a farm. It is true that the farmer is very dependent upon the weather in this respect. A frost that comes late in the spring can wipe out his crops. A

drought can seriously cripple him, and several dry summers can almost ruin him financially. When crops are good, the market often becomes glutted, and prices fall.

Usually, however, a well-established farmer has an adequate income, and he has far more than the cash he takes in. Once he has built his home and barns, and equipped them properly, he may not have to pay rent as the city-dweller does. Further-



FARMING offers good career opportunities to persons qualified for it

more, the farmer can almost always be sure of raising enough to feed his family, even in the most difficult times.

A young man who plans to have his own farm should give serious thought to the investment he will have to make over a period of years. The cost of land and equipment varies from place to place, and from year to year. Right now such costs are high, but within a few years they may be down. The following figures, taken from *Career*

Opportunities by Mark Morris (Progress Press, Washington, D. C.), give some idea of the expenditure which was necessary just before the war to set up a family-sized farm in various areas:

An 82-acre cotton farm in Georgia, \$2,100; 134-acre tobacco farm in Virginia, \$5,900; 20-acre orange grove of mature trees in California, \$42,700; 2,140-acre cattle ranch in South Dakota, \$21,800; 191-acre corn-hog-cattle farm in Corn Belt, \$18,000; and a 10-acre poultry farm in New England, \$9,000.

The young farmer will not, of course, make this entire investment at one time. But in laying his plans he should get the best available information on the total expenditure that will be required, and how much of this expense will have to be paid each year. He should also study the different types of farming to see whether he wants to be a general farmer, or to specialize in wheat, fruit, cotton, livestock, or some other product.

Young men who are interested in farming as a vocation should talk to farmers in their localities. They may also write to their state agricultural colleges for information about college work that might be helpful, and to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., for information on financial aids for farmers. Their county farm agents can give them additional facts on the problems and benefits of farming.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Study Guide

Argentina

1. How do Argentine officials defend their government's practice of charging high prices for the grain that is sold abroad?

2. Why are farmers in that nation dissatisfied with the government's grain policy?

3. Many people believe that the United States helped Juan Peron to become President of Argentina. Why?

4. Briefly describe the policies of the Peron regime toward schools, newspapers, and business firms.

5. True or False: Argentina has for a long time had many great manufacturing industries.

6. In what part of Argentina do most of the people live?

7. Approximately what proportion of the Argentine people are of European ancestry?

Discussion

1. Do you believe that the United States should be friendly toward the Peron government, or in your opinion should it strongly oppose him? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Do you think the Argentine government is justified in charging extremely high prices for the grain it ships abroad? Explain your position.

Electoral System

1. What request made by President Truman several weeks ago caused some of the southern Democrats to threaten to work against him in the coming presidential election?

2. How do southern leaders believe that problems regarding civil rights can best be handled? How does President Truman think they should be dealt with?

3. Describe the electoral college. How many electors does each state have?

4. What body selects the President if no candidate has a majority of the electoral votes?

5. What plan might the southern Democrats use to throw the selection of a President to that body?

6. Why did the framers of the Constitution adopt the electoral college plan?

7. How is it possible for a presidential candidate to receive more popular votes than his opponent and yet lose the election?

8. Give two reforms that have been suggested for the electoral system.

Discussion

1. Do you think that any changes should be made in our method of electing a President? Why, or why not?

2. Do you believe that electors should be compelled to vote for their party's candidate—or should they be able to vote as they wish? Give reasons for your answer.

3. What, in your opinion, are the advantages of the electoral system? What are its disadvantages?

Miscellaneous

1. How did Russia "counterattack" after the United States published secret pre-war agreements between Germany and the Soviet Union?

2. What are the meanings of the terms "Bizonia" and "Benelux"?

3. Tell briefly of Eamon de Valera's career.

4. What benefits do farmers receive from the shelter belt of trees planted on the Great Plains?

5. Describe the work of a State Department courier.

6. In what office did Martin Van Buren probably make his greatest contribution to this country?

7. List some important Puerto Rican products.